

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
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-----271344Z 067212 /53

O 271245Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8878  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0941

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), TZ, NI/US  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 018432, (B) LAGOS 906 (C) KINSHASA 176

1 WE URGE DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG CONSIDER ADDITION OF ONE DAY TO NIGERIA PORTION OF PROPOSED ITINERARY. ARRANGEMENTS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL ARE TOO TIGHT TO ASSURE HE CAN MEET WITH OBASANJO AND OTHERS IN ANYTHING LESS THAN IMPORVISED AND HECTIC ENVIRONMENT. WHILE FMG WOULD BEND EVERY EFFORT TO DO ITS BEST ON YOUNG'S BEHALF, IT WULL BE EMBARRASSED BY UNAVOIDABLE COMPLICATIONS AND PRESSURES OF CEREMONIAL AND PROTOCOLARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF DURBAR DAY (FEBRUARY 8) IN KADUNA.

2. YOUNG'S ATTENDANCE AT DURBAR WOULD BE MASTER STROKE IN TERMS OF PUBWIC RELATIONS FOR BOTH US AND NIGERIA; IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, OTHER PURPOSES OF YOUNG VISIT CAN BE ADEQUATELY SERVED ONLY BY ADDING ADDITIONAL DAY FEBRUARY & TO HIS NIGERIAN SCHEDULE, THUS ENABLING US LAY ON APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL CONVERSATIONS UNCOMPLICATED  
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BY OFFICIAL DURBAR FESTIVITIES THE PREVIOUS DAY. AS INDICATED IN LAGOS 906, WHICH WE HOPE YOU HAD RECEIVED PRIOR TO TRANSMITTAL OF REFTEL, YOUNG WOULD BE ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED AS MEMBER OF OBASANJO'S VIP PARTY, WHICH LEAVES LAGOS FOR KADUNA FEBRUARY 7 AND RETURNS LAGOS FEBRUARY 9. CONVERSATIONS ON FEBRUARY 9 MIGHT BE POSSIBLE  
IN KADUNA PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR LAGOS, AND/OR ON THE VIP

AIRCRAFT EN ROUTE FROM KADUNA TO LAGOS, AND/OR IN LAGOS AFTER RETURN FROM KADUNA. UNDER THIS OPTION, AMBASSADOR YOUNG COULD LEAVE FOR LONDON THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 10, INSTEAD OF THE DAY BEFORE.

3. WITH REGARD IDENTITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO MAY ATTEND FEBRUARY 8 DURBAR, WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS BOTH WITH MEA AND FESTAC SECRETARIAT (WHICH UNDERWENT FURTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES YESTERDAY IN FMG'S CONTINUING EFFORT IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE) OBTAIN ACCURATE ESTIMATE. "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" CLOSE TO FESTAC PRESS HAVE REPORTED THAT QADHAFI, IDI AMIN AND TEFERI BENTI ARE AMONG "ABOUT TEN" HEADS OF STATE WHO ARE EXPECTED TO WATCH ONE OF THE TWO DURBARS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 5 AND 8. KINSHASA HAS REPORTED THAT MOBUTU IS TO BE IN THE COUNTRY FEBRUARY 4-7 (KINSHASA 176) AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT ZAIREAN FORMIN WILL ATTEND FEBRUARY 8 DURBAR (STATE 18140). GHANAIAH HICOM STILL EXPECTING COMMISSIONER FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI TO PUT IN AN APPEARANCE BUT THUS FAR HAS NO FIRM DATES. WE HOPE DURING REMAINDER OF TODAY AND EARLY TOMORROW TO ASCERTAIN ADDITIONAL NAMES.

4. BEST METHOD YOUNG TRAVEL LAGOS TO KADUNA APPEARS TO BE CHARTER AIRCRAFT LEAVING LAGOS AT DAYBREAK FEBRUARY 8. WE ARE CHECKING WHETHER NIGHT CHARTER POSSIBLE. NIGERIA AIRWAYS NOT RPT NOT FEASIBLE. IF YOUNG UNABLE EXTEND VISIT AS RECOMMENDED, HE COULD RETURN FROM KADUNA TO LAGOS BY SAME CHARTER AT DAYBREAK FEBRUARY 9 IN ORDER CATCH FLIGHT TO LONDON.

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5. FYI NIGERIAN AIRWAYS IS INCREASINGLY UNRELIABLE AND UNPLEASANT. WE WOULD RECOMMEND YOUNG CONSIDER BRITISH CALEDONIA ALTERNATIVE. CANNOT PROVIDE YOU PRECISE BC SCHEDULE SINCE NO TELEPHONES WORKING AT MOMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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